



PRESCHOOL PROFESSIONAL GROWTH & EFFECTIVENESS SYSTEM FAQ

Q: Are districts required to participate in Preschool TPGES Pilot for the 2014-15 school year?

A: Yes. All districts with at least one qualifying teacher are required to participate. However, we encourage any preschool teacher that is not in their summative year to participate. Districts are exempt if a qualifying teacher is not available. For the 2014-15 school year, preschool teachers that are not participating in the pilot will continue to use the evaluation system the district has previously used.

Q: Are preschool teachers part of TPGES?

A: Yes. Preschool teachers are in the TPGES group and do not fall into the OPGES group. For the 2014-15 school year, preschool teachers that are not participating in the pilot will continue to use the evaluation system the district has previously used.

Q: What is the purpose of preschool teachers piloting this year if they are part of TPGES?

A: While preschool teachers will use the Danielson Framework for Teaching that K-12 teachers use, there are differences in practice. Preschool uses Kentucky's Early Childhood Standards, state-reported classroom assessment tools and Developmentally Appropriate Practice, among others. Guidance is being released to assist teachers and evaluators strengthen the pilot process and identify the differences. This will be especially beneficial for anyone who may not be familiar with effective early childhood teaching.

Q: What if my district is already using TPGES to evaluate preschool teachers?

A: You may continue with your plan and still participate in the pilot. Reporting won't be separate from the TPGES group and data will be stored in EDS.

Q: Who evaluates preschool teachers, the building principal or the district preschool coordinator?

A: In most cases, you should continue with the evaluator who has traditionally evaluated preschool teachers. In many cases, it is district policy that preschool coordinators evaluate preschool teachers. Remember that all evaluators using TPGES must be certified in TeachScape. Be sure to address this in the district Certified Evaluation Plan (CEP).

Q: What about Head Start and blended classrooms?

A: It depends on the situation. Consider who employs the teacher and who has evaluated the teacher in the past. Preschool teachers of "blended" classrooms (i.e., classrooms with Head Start and state-funded preschool students), who are either employed or evaluated by the district, will participate in TPGES and may participate in the pilot. Teachers of "stand-alone" Head Start classrooms (i.e., classrooms of Head Start students only), who are neither employed nor evaluated by the district, do not participate in TPGES or the pilot.

Q: How do I ensure that preschool considerations are included in my district's CEP?

A: Find out who is representing preschool on your district's 50/50 committee, which makes CEP decisions. If not specifically represented, identify a person on the committee to communicate with and ensure that preschool has a voice. All districts will have to resubmit their CEP next year, due to the addition of the OPGES group, so preschool additions could be made as well.